GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4399
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
IMPORT OF OIL SEEDS AND RICE
GORDHANBHAI JAVIA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of oil seeds and rice has adversely affected the farmers;

(b) if so, whether oil-seeds and rice growing farmers are switching over to cultivate other profitable crops; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote and encourage production of oil seeds and rice to protect the interest of farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): In the case of oilseeds, due to huge import of edible oil, there was a distress sale of some oilseeds like Soyabean, Rapeseed-Mustard and Sunflower in some parts of the country. In the case of rice, import has no impact on the farmers.

(b): The area under oilseeds is fluctuating year to year basis due to unfavourable weather conditions prevailed in the country and no specific area has been diverted from oilseed crops to other crops. In the case of rice, there has been increasing trend in its area.

(c): In view of reply to part (b) above, Question does not arise. However, to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and rice two centrally sponsored schemes, namely, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) − Rice are in implementation in the country.Under both these schemes financial assistance is being provided on the various critical inputs by way of subsidy. The import duty on various categories of oil has been increased recently to protect the interest of farmers.